

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, UR

SUBJECT: US/USSR FISHERIES DISCUSSIONS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CLINGAN

1. USG WILL NEED TO MEET WITH SOVIETS TO DISCUSS PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF CURRENT AGREEMENTS WHICH EXPIRE JUNE 30. US PROPOSES TO CONVENE TALKS IN WASHINGTON JUNE 24. SINCE THEY REPRESENT CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH WERE TERMINATED FEBRUARY 26 THIS YEAR, US FEELS IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE LONG MEETING AND THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT
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MENT ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN FEW DAYS AND THUS AGREE-

MENT CAN BE SIGNED EARLY DURING SECOND WEEK. SCHEDULING PROBLEMS MAKE IT NECESSARY THAT SIGNING TAKES PLACE NOT LATER ;HAN JULY 3.

2. SECOND LESS DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE IS TO CONVENE TALKS IN WASHINGTON JULY 9 (WEDNESDAY) AND SIGN AGREEMENT NO LATER THAN JULY 18. IN VIEW OF LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND (JULY 4-6), IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO MEET EARLIER THAN JULY 9 BECAUSE OF PEOPLE COMING FROM WEST COAST. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT TALKS CAN NOT BE EXTENDED BEYOND JULY 18, AGAIN DUE TO SCHEDULING PROBLEMS.

3. SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED THAT DISCUSSIONS BE CONVENED IN MOSCOW. IN US VIEW, DISCUSSIONS CONSTITUTE EXTENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WERE TERMINATED IN FEBRUARY AND JUNE TALKS SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONVENED AGAIN IN WASHINGTON. FURTHERMORE, US INDUSTRY ADVISORS, WHOSE PARTICIPATION WILL BE REQUIRED, WILL NOT BE FINANCIALLY ABLE TO AFFORT ADDED EXPENSE OF TRIP TO MOSCOW DUE TO LARGE EXPENSES ALREADY INCURRED BY THEM IN ATTENDING FEBRUARY MEETING.

4. PART OF ONE DAY DURING ABOVE PERIOD WILL NEED TO BE SET ASIDE FOR TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON HALIBUT INVOLVING US, CANADA AND USSR. US AND CANADA ARE MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION WHICH HAS JOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HALIBUT RESOURCE WHICH HAS SUFFERED SERIOUS DECLINE DUE TO LARGE INCIDENTAL CATCHES MADE BY FOREIGN FLEETS. TRILATERAL TALKS ON HALIBUT WERE CONVENED FOR THREE DAYS IN FEBRUARY DURING OCCASION OF BILATERAL TALKS AND HALIBUT ISSUE WAS THEN NEGOTIATED UNSUCCESSFULLY BETWEEN US AND USSR. NEGOTIATION OF HALIBUT PROBLEM WAS CONTINUED IN BILATERAL FORUM SINCE SOVIET FISHERIES CONDUCTED PRIMARILY OFF US AND HALIBUT PROBLEM AREAS FOUND MAINLY IN WATERS ADJACENT TO US COAST. FURTHERMORE, USSR INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR RESOLVING HALIBUT ISSUE IN CONTEXT OF US-USSR NEGOTIATIONS SO AS TO BE BETTER ABLE TO SEE WHAT TOTAL PACKAGE LOOKED LIKE. US, ON ITS PART, CONSULTED WITH CANADIANS AS NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESSED.
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5. FYI. ABOVE SCHEDULING SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ZNAMENSKIY, SOVIET EMBASSY, ON APRIL 7. HOWEVER, POST IS REQUESTED TO INFORM FISHERIES MINISTRY OF US PROPOSAL TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH OCCURRED IN SCHEDULING OF ARRANGEMENTS IN FEBRUARY TALKS. ZNAMENSKIY HAS PROMISED RESPONSE WITHIN WEEK, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF OTHER SCHEDULING MATTERS WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED

QUICKLY. KISSINGER

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